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Asymmetry of pholidosis bilateral traits in sand lizard (Lacerta agilis, Reptilia, Squamata) from the Republic of Tatarstan

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Abstract

Such deviations as asymmetry and abnormalities can occur because of some external and internal factors that affect the organism during embryogenesis. The asymmetry of bilateral traits in sand lizards found in six areas of the Republic of Tatarstan is considered. Asymmetric features are estimated statistically; integral characteristics of fluctuating asymmetry are presented. The asymmetry in the number of femoral pores, cheek scutes, and supraciliar scutes is more common. Most of the characteristics demonstrate fluctuating asymmetry. It is observed in 41% of all the individuals. There are neither significant sex nor age differences in the values of fluctuating asymmetry. The populations from Bekser, Kordon and Spassk differ from the others by high levels of fluctuating asymmetry, and these differences can be explained by isolation, the genetic structure of populations, microclimatic conditions and other factors.

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Keywords

Fluctuating asymmetry, Lacerta agilis, Pholidosis, Sand lizard